

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 are canceled herein. Please note that all claims currently pending in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. Upon entry, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.-18. (Canceled).

19. (New) A method of screening a compound for its ability to activate or suppress ABIN (A20-Binding Inhibitor of NF- κ B activation) dependent NF- κ B inhibition, said method comprising:

- a) combining a compound to be screened with a protein comprising ABIN amino acid consensus sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 and having the ability to interact with protein A20,
- b) detecting an interaction between said compound and said protein,
- c) identifying compounds that interact with said protein,
- d) obtaining a cell line with that nucleic acid sequence encoding protein A20, nucleic acid sequence encoding said ABIN consensus sequence protein, and an NF- κ B dependent reporter gene,
- e) administering at least one of TNF (tumor necrosis factor), IL-1 (interleukin-1), TPA (tissue plasminogen activator), TRADD (TNF receptor associated death domain), RIP (receptor interacting protein), TRAF2 (TNF receptor associated factor 2) to the cell line to induce activation of the NF- κ B pathway,
- f) administering the detected compounds to said cell line, and
- g) determining if the administration of the detected compounds alter NF- κ B dependent reporter gene expression, wherein an increase in expression indicates that the detected compounds suppress ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition and a decrease in expression indicates that the compounds activate ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein detecting an interaction between said compound and said protein comprises using either a two-hybrid assay or a co-immunoprecipitation assay.

21. (New) A method of screening a compound for its ability to activate or suppress ABIN (A20-Binding Inhibitor of NF- κ B activation) dependent NF- κ B inhibition, said method comprising:

- a) combining a compound to be screened with a protein comprising ABIN amino acid consensus sequence of SEQ ID NO:9 and having the ability to inhibit NF- κ B activation,
- b) detecting an interaction between said compound and said protein,
- c) identifying compounds that interact with said protein,
- d) obtaining a cell line with a nucleic acid sequence encoding said ABIN consensus sequence protein and an NF- κ B dependent reporter gene,
- e) administering to the cell line a means for inducing activation of the NF- κ B pathway, wherein the means is inhibitable by said ABIN consensus sequence protein,
- f) administering one of the detected compounds to said cell line, and
- g) determining if the administration of the detected compound alters NF- κ B dependent reporter gene expression, wherein an increase in expression indicates that the detected compound suppresses ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition and a decrease in expression indicates that the detected compound activates ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein obtaining a cell line comprises obtaining a cell line including a nucleic acid sequence encoding protein A20.

23. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the means for inducing activation of the NF- κ B pathway comprises at least one of TNF (tumor necrosis factor), IL-1 (interleukin-1), TPA (tissue plasminogen activator), TRADD (TNF receptor associated death domain), RIP (receptor interacting protein), or TRAF2 (TNF receptor associated factor 2).

24. (New) A method of screening a compound for its ability to activate or suppress ABIN (A20-Binding Inhibitor of NF- κ B activation) dependent NF- κ B inhibition, said method comprising:

- a) combining a compound to be screened with a protein comprising ABIN amino acid consensus sequence of SEQ ID NO:9 and having the ability to inhibit NF- κ B activation,
- b) detecting an interaction between said compound and said protein,
- c) identifying compounds that interact with said protein,
- d) obtaining a cell line with a nucleic acid sequence encoding said ABIN consensus sequence protein, an NF- κ B dependent reporter gene, and a NF- κ B pathway inducible by at least one of TNF (tumor necrosis factor), IL-1 (interleukin-1), TPA (tissue plasminogen activator), TRADD (TNF receptor associated death domain), RIP (receptor interacting protein), or TRAF2 (TNF receptor associated factor 2),
- e) inducing activation of the NF- κ B pathway of said cell line,
- f) administering one of the detected compounds to said cell line, and
- g) determining if the administration of the detected compound alters NF- κ B dependent reporter gene expression, wherein an increase in expression indicates that the detected compound suppresses ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition and a decrease in expression indicates that the detected compound activates ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition.